RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 2.2 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for denying or allowing delivery of an incoming electronic mail (e-mail) message from a source e-mail server, said incoming message indicating a source e-mail server[[,]] identity and a source domain, and an addressee for the message associated with the source e-mail server, said system comprising:

a central e-mail server registry database for storing information regarding all e-mail servers and domains combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains that are authorized to send e-mail messages over the Internet, wherein each e-mail server identity in the registry includes both an e-mail server name as defined in the e-mail server's Domain Name Services (DNS) entry and an Internet Protocol (IP) address;

means for the addressee to specify characteristics of domains that are authorized to send e-mail messages to the addressee;

means for an e-mail a receiving e-mail server serving the addressee to access information from the registry database to determine whether the source domain possesses the specified characteristics combination of the source e-mail server identity and the associated source domain included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination; and

means for allowing delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the source domain possesses the specified characteristics combination included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination, and denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the source domain does not possess the specified characteristics combination included in the incoming e-mail message is not an authorized combination.

Response - PAGE 2 of 16

2.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the information regarding ~~all authorized e-mail servers and domains~~ <u>combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains</u> includes a status of each e-mail server's registration with the registry database, said status indicating whether each server is registered, whether the server's associated domains are registered, and whether the registrations are in good order.

3.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the means for allowing delivery and denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message includes means for denying delivery if the ~~source domain~~ <u>combination</u> is not registered, or if the registration of the source domain is not in good order.

4.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the means for allowing delivery and denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message includes means for denying delivery if the source domain is not associated with the source e-mail server <u>identity</u>.

5.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the information regarding ~~all authorized e-mail servers and domains~~ <u>combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains</u> also includes a country code indicating a country of origin associated with each registered domain.

6.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the information regarding ~~all authorized e-mail servers and domains~~ <u>combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains</u> also includes an industry code indicating an industry associated with each registered domain.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the industry code is selected from industry codes defined by the North American Industry Classification System.

Response - PAGE 3 of 16

8.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the information regarding ~~all authorized e-mail servers and domains~~ combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains also includes a class code indicating a type of business associated with each registered domain.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the class code is selected from a group consisting of:
    corporate business;
    retail sales business;
    corporate sales business;
    corporate professional services business; and
    consumer professional services business.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the means for allowing delivery and denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message also includes means for denying delivery if the source e-mail server is not registered with the central registry database, or if the source e-mail server's registration is not in good standing.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, further comprising:
    a local registry database associated with the receiving e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~ for downloading predefined information from the central registry database;
    means within the receiving e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~ for accessing the local registry database in a first attempt to determine whether the source e-mail server ~~and/or~~ and source domain are registered in good standing, and whether the ~~source domain possesses the specified characteristics~~ combination is an authorized combination; and
    means within the receiving e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~ for accessing the central registry database in a second attempt to determine whether the source e-mail server ~~and/or~~ and source domain are registered in good standing, and whether the ~~source domain possesses the specified characteristics~~ combination is an authorized combination, said second attempt being made in response to determining that the

Response - PAGE 4 of 16

source e-mail server and/or or source domain are is not registered in the local registry
database.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of denying or
allowing delivery of an incoming electronic mail (e-mail) message from a source e-mail
server, said incoming message indicating a source e-mail server[[,]] identity and a
source domain, and an addressee for the message associated with the source e-mail
server, said method comprising the steps of:

storing in a central e-mail server registry database, information regarding all e-
mail servers and domains authorized to send e-mail messages over the Internet;

specifying for the addressee, characteristics of domains that are authorized to
send e-mail messages to the addressee;

receiving the incoming e-mail in an e-mail a receiving e-mail server serving the
addressee;

accessing by the receiving e-mail server serving the addressee, information from
the a central registry database, said information including combinations of e-mail server
identities and associated domains that are authorized to send e-mail messages over the
Internet, wherein each e-mail server identity includes both an e-mail server name as
defined in the e-mail server's Domain Name Services (DNS) entry and an Internet
Protocol (IP) address;

determining whether the source domain possesses the specified characteristics
combination of the source e-mail server identity and the associated source domain
included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination;

allowing delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the source domain
possesses the specified characteristics combination included in the incoming e-mail
message is an authorized combination; and

denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the source domain does not
possess the specified characteristics combination included in the incoming e-mail
message is not an authorized combination.

13.   (Canceled)

Response - PAGE 5 of 16

14.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the source e-mail server is not registered in the central registry database.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the source domain is not registered in the central registry database.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the information in the central registry database indicates that the source e-mail server ~~and/or~~ or source domain do not have a registration in good standing.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the source domain is not associated with the source e-mail server.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising, before receiving the incoming e-mail, the steps of:
        downloading from the central registry database to the <u>receiving</u> e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~, predefined information from the registry database; and
        storing the downloaded information in a local registry database associated with the <u>receiving</u> e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising, after receiving the incoming e-mail, the steps of:
        accessing by the <u>receiving</u> e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~, the local registry database in a first attempt to determine to determine whether the source e-mail server ~~and/or~~ <u>and</u> source domain are registered in good standing, and whether the ~~source~~

Response - PAGE 6 of 16

~~domain possesses the specified characteristics~~ combination included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination; and

if the source e-mail server ~~and/or~~ or source domain ~~are~~ is not registered in the local registry database, accessing by the receiving e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~, the central registry database in a second attempt to determine whether the source e-mail server ~~and/or~~ and source domain are registered in good standing, and whether the ~~source domain possesses the specified characteristics~~ combination included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising periodically refreshing the downloaded information in the local registry database.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising refreshing the downloaded information in the local registry database when requested by the receiving e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~.

22.   (Currently Amended) An e-mail server registry comprising:

means for registering e-mail servers and domains ~~authorized to send e-mail messages over the Internet~~;

an e-mail server registry database for storing information regarding ~~the registered e-mail servers and domains~~ combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains that are authorized to send e-mail messages over the Internet, wherein each e-mail server identity in the registry includes both an e-mail server name as defined in the e-mail server's Domain Name Services (DNS) entry and an Internet Protocol (IP) address; and

means for responding to queries from registered e-mail servers regarding ~~other e-mail servers and/or domains~~ whether queried combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains are authorized to send e-mail messages over the Internet.

23.   (Currently Amended) The e-mail server registry of claim 22, wherein the e-mail server registry database also stores information regarding the registration status of each registered e-mail server and domain, and information regarding each registered domain's country, industry, and business class.

24.   (Currently Amended) The e-mail server registry of claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving a complaint from a registered e-mail server regarding an identified source e-mail server sending an e-mail with characteristics that do not match the registered information regarding the country, industry, or business class of the e-mail's source domain; and

means for suspending the identified source e-mail server from the registry upon determining that the source e-mail server is sending e-mails with characteristics that do not match the registered information regarding the countries, industries, or business classes of the source e-mail server's registered domains.

25.   (Original) The e-mail server registry of claim 24, further comprising means for changing the registration status of the identified source e-mail server from "good" to "review" after receiving the complaint, and while determining whether the source e-mail server is sending e-mails with characteristics that do not match the registered information regarding the countries, industries, or business classes of the source e-mail server's registered domains.

26.   (Currently Amended) The e-mail server registry of claim 22, wherein the means for responding to queries includes means for determining whether an identified e-mail server and/or or domain is registered, whether the identified e-mail server and/or or domain is registered in good standing, and whether the identified domain possesses defined characteristics regarding the country, industry, and business class of the identified domain.

Response - PAGE 8 of 16

27.   (Original) The e-mail server registry of claim 22, wherein the means for responding to queries includes means for verifying that an identified domain is properly associated with an identified e-mail server.

28.   (Currently Amended) A system for denying or allowing delivery of an incoming electronic mail (e-mail) message, said incoming message ~~indicating~~ including a source e-mail server identity and an ~~addressee for the message~~ an associated source domain, said system comprising:

a central e-mail server registry database for storing registration information for all combinations of e-mail ~~servers~~ server identities and associated domains that are authorized to send e-mail messages over the Internet, wherein each e-mail server identity in the registry includes both an e-mail server name as defined in the e-mail server's Domain Name Services (DNS) entry and an Internet Protocol (IP) address;

means for ~~an e-mail~~ a receiving e-mail server ~~serving the addressee~~ to query the registry database to determine whether the combination of the source e-mail server identity and the associated source domain included in the incoming e-mail message is registered in the registry database; and

means for allowing delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the ~~source e-mail server~~ combination included in the incoming e-mail message is registered in the registry database, and for denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the ~~source e-mail server~~ combination included in the incoming e-mail message is not registered in the registry database.

29.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein the central e-mail server registry database also stores an indication for each e-mail server identity indicating whether each ~~server's~~ identity's registration is in good standing, and the means for allowing delivery and denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message also includes means for denying delivery if the source e-mail ~~server's~~ server identity does not have a registration ~~is not~~ in good standing.

Response - PAGE 9 of 16

30.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the central e-mail server registry database only responds to queries from registered e-mail servers.

31-36. (Canceled)

37.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of denying or allowing delivery of an incoming electronic mail (e-mail) message from a source e-mail server, said incoming message indicating a source ~~of the incoming e-mail message~~ e-mail server identity and a source domain associated with the source e-mail server, said method comprising the steps of:

storing in an e-mail server registry database, information regarding ~~characteristics of e-mail servers and domains that are authorized to send e-mail messages to the addressee~~ combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains that are authorized to send e-mail messages over the Internet, wherein each e-mail server identity in the registry includes both an e-mail server name as defined in the e-mail server's Domain Name Services (DNS) entry and an Internet Protocol (IP) address;

determining whether the ~~source of the incoming e-mail message possesses the characteristics of e-mail servers and domains authorized to send e-mail messages to the addressee~~ combination of the source e-mail server identity and the associated source domain included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination;

allowing delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the ~~source of the incoming e-mail message possesses the characteristics of e-mail servers and domains authorized to send e-mail messages to the addressee~~ combination included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination; and

denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the ~~source of the incoming e-mail message does not possess the characteristics of e-mail servers and domains authorized to send e-mail messages to the addressee~~ combination included in the incoming e-mail message is not an authorized combination.

Response - PAGE 10 of 16

38. (New) A receiving electronic mail (e-mail) server for denying or allowing delivery of an incoming e-mail message from a source e-mail server, said incoming message indicating a source e-mail server identity and a source domain associated with the source e-mail server, said receiving e-mail server comprising:

a local e-mail registry database for storing information regarding combinations of e-mail server identities and associated domains that are authorized to send e-mail messages over the Internet, wherein each e-mail server identity in the registry includes both an e-mail server name as defined in the e-mail server's Domain Name Services (DNS) entry and an Internet Protocol (IP) address;

means for determining whether the combination of the source e-mail server identity and the associated source domain included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination;

means for allowing delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the combination included in the incoming e-mail message is an authorized combination; and

means for denying delivery of the incoming e-mail message if the combination included in the incoming e-mail message is not an authorized combination.

Response - PAGE 11 of 16